

DUXBURY HISTORY FILE
REFERENCE

'Heaume' team spells trouble for competition

By KEITH KENYON
For The Patriot Ledger

If the prize for winning the second annual Duxbury Spelling Bee was a heavy medieval helmet, you could say the Valiant Villagers took home the heaume Tuesday night.

"I have been waiting to spell that word all night," overjoyed Villagers captain Delia Briggs said after correctly spelling "heaume," giving her team the spelling bee title only three words into the final round.

The bee filled the Duxbury High School gymnasium with 168 competitors and hundreds of audience members.

Eileen Williams said the turnout made her proud to be Duxbury's school superin-

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tendent. She was "wordmaster" for the bee.

The event raised \$16,000 for the Duxbury Education Foundation, according to foundation President Sidney McClure. The foundation was established in 1989 to help offset school funding cutbacks caused by Proposition 2½.

There were seven elimination rounds, called hives, in this year's spelling bee. One team advanced to the finals from each hive.

The three-member teams were sponsored by local businesses.

Teams had 20 seconds to write the word after it was pronounced, used in a sentence and pronounced again. All the words used were from the National Spelling Bee 2000

Briggs also captained last year's winning team, the Venerable Villagers, which won by knowing how to spell "philippic" — a bitter verbal attack.

This year, her teammates were Carey Alexander and former Boston Marathon director William Cloney. The team, which advanced to the finals from Hive No. 7, was sponsored by The Village at Duxbury Contributors.

Alexander gave Briggs credit for spelling the final word: "Delia is amazing."

The team with the cleverest name was the Dumbledores. A dumbledore is a bumblebee. It's also the name of the headmaster of the School of Wizardry and Witchcraft in the Harry Potter books.

The Dumbledores, who dressed like wizards, were victorious in Hive No. 1.

They advanced to the final round when Nancy Sheere knew how to spell "tiqueur" — a person prone to tics.

Although they were excited about being in the finals, members of the team admitted that they were just there to have fun.

The Duxbury Men's Club won in Hive No. 6 by knowing how to spell "muumuu" — a full, long, loose garment for women — but the stars of that hive and the entire event were The Super Stars: Brianna Baker, 10, Brady Wyrzten, 11, and Olivia Rodriguez, 10. Their team lasted well into the hive's sixth round.

Sixty to 70 volunteers helped with the bee, according to Jane Wallace, who co-chaired the event. She said the volunteers' help and the support from the community make the bee "a joy to do."